Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 24 Feb 2021 until 23:59 on Thursday 25 Feb 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 24 Feb 2021 at 03:08

Confidence: High for wet and windy weather until Thursday, but there is some uncertainty over the timing of the rain clearing later Wednesday. High for building pressure into the weekend bringing settled weather.

Headline for Wednesday 24 Feb 2021: Wet and remaining very windy.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 24 Feb 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** Low Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** High Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability					
>95%	>95%	80%	80%	80%	80%

Forecast for Wednesday 24 Feb 2021

Weather: Another wet and dull day with persistent and often heavy rain continuing to bring widely poor visibility. Some drier interludes are possible and the lower slopes of the northern and eastern Fells likely afforded some shelter. Rain may clear to the south through the evening, although there is some doubt.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: No chance.

Visibility: Cloud will be thick and extensive above 400-500m, likely even lower across the southern and western Fells. Below this, rain will make visibility very hazy and often limited to a few kilometres. Improved across the more sheltered north and east.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 24 Feb 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	51/60 SW	42/51 SW	32/40 SW	25/30 SW	25/30 S	23/29 SW	21/27 SW
600	40/51 SW	34/45 SW	27/37 SW	18/24 SW	18/24 S	18/24 SW	17/23 SW
300	11/36 SW	11/33 SW	11/28 SW	6/20 SW	5/17 S	7/19 SW	8/19 SW
Valley	10/32 SW	11/31 S	12/27 S	7/19 S	5/17 S	8/18 SW	8/18 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	4/-4	4/-4	3/-4	3/-3	3/-3	3/-3	2/-4
600	5/-2	5/-1	5/-1	5/-0	4/-0	4/-1	4/-1
300	7/3	7/4	6/3	6/4	6/4	6/3	5/3
Valley	8/6	8/6	8/5	8/6	8/6	7/5	7/4
Freezing Level*	1500m	1500m	1400m	1500m	1600m	1300m	1200m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Recent and continuing wet weather will leave ground sodden and watercourses swollen making for slow progress. Although temperatures will be above freezing, strong winds and rain will give a very cold feel to the day.

Forecast for Thursday 25 Feb 2021

Weather: A marked change to Wednesday as rain clears southwards overnight to leave dry, bright and increasingly sunny weather. Occasionally fresh westerly winds will bring a cold feel on higher ground. Chance of the odd light sleet or snow shower through evening.

Maximum wind: West or southwest 20-25 gusting 35mph, easing a little through afternoon.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 80%.

Visibility: In stark contrast to Wednesday, wide reaching views are expected. Some patchy cloud may linger above around 600m.

Temperature: **Valleys:** 5-7C.
At 800m: Around freezing.
Freezing level: 700-800m.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 23 February 2021. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:25 Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live. Small, insignificant isolated patches of snow can be encountered from 650m in sheltered spots and hollows with the vast majority of snow now lying above 850m on N and E facing aspects. Conversely, most of the fells and paths of the Lake District are now clear of snow and, with a summit temperature just above freezing combined with driving rain, the thaw is continuing. That said, the remaining snow will take time to thaw owing to a combination of factors : its height, the fact that it lies in sheltered spots, its undergone a thaw/freeze and has sometimes been compressed by walkers' feet. However, the only unavoidable snow encountered today was at the exit to Swirral Edge where, although only a short section, an ice axe is strongly recommended as it was hard snow and the footprints in it were similarly icy. Indeed some walkers, especially in the current climate, may prefer the added security of microspikes and/or crampons especially given the other patches of hard snow and ice that still exist near the top of Swirral Edge. Conversely with careful route choice, Striding Edge can now be climbed without setting foot on snow. However, if you miss this snow free route (which lies to the south), crampons and ice axe will be required. There are still some cornices above N and E facing slopes. Given the milder temperatures these are now considerably smaller and have slumped. However, they still should not be approached so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Despite the milder temperatures, the summit windchill remains well below freezing so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Anyone venturing above 800m should expect and be prepared to encounter patches of ice, even though these are now generally avoidable. Given Saturday's current forecast, goggles are also highly recommended to lessen the sting of rain (and potentially hail) driven in on gale/storm force winds. Owing to the strength of the wind, thoughtful foot (and hand on exposed sections) placement was essential today and this is also likely to be the case on Saturday. Please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back, although, again, given the current forecast for Saturday consider if you want to venture out in the first place!! A pandemic is not the time to be pushing your comfort zone. Temperature: plus 2.4 C, Maximum wind speed 62.1 mph, Wind chill: minus 8.3 C, Average wind speed: 48.7 mph.

Issued at: 03:08 on Wed 24 Feb 2021

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